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(21) Application number: **09183348**(71) Applicant: **RICOH CO LTD**(22) Date of filing: **09.07.97**(72) Inventor: **HARADA MICHIO**(54) **IMAGE READER**

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(57) Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide an image reader capable of quickening the throughput of read, simplifying a carrying route, reducing the possibility of damaging or breaking an original, simplifying a structure, improving assemblability and having a small size without becoming expensive.

**SOLUTION:** This image reader is provided with an automatic sheet original feed means 2, a first read means 1 for reading the front surface of a sheet original and a second read means 3 for reading the back surface of the original. In this case, a sheet original read mode for reading images while feeding the original to a prescribed read position on a contact glass 6 and a book mode for mounting the thick original of a book original or the like on the contact glass 6 and reading the images while moving the first read means 1 are selected and the second read means 3 is integrally mounted to the first read back surface plate 23 of the first read means 1.

